

Message Text

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60

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 EUR-10 ARA-10 AF-04 EA-13

SNM-02 AID-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

JUSE-00 L-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /087 W

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R 231249Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4234

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1204

LIMDIS

CND FROM USDEL
PASS WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR WALKER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: CND ITEM 9 - WORLD OPIUM SUPPLY

REFERENCE: GENEVA 1006

1. WE HAVE CONSULTED WIDELY WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS ON APPROACH TO BE TAKEN THIS CND SESSION WITH VIEW TO ADVANCING US POLICY OBJECTIVES ON OPIUM QUESTION. THIS APPROACH COORDINATED IN FIRST INSTANCE WITH INDIA AND TURKEY TO AVOID OPPOSITION THESE TWO CRUCIAL DELS WHO HAVE FOUND IT ACCEPTABLE. MAIN ELEMENTS OF APPROACH WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) INCB ASSESSMENT WORLD OPIUM SITUATION INDICATING CONSTANT INCREASE IN WORLD DEMAND FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES MAKES IT PRUDENT TO EXAMINE FUTURE PLANNING FOR MEETING BOTH CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AND REBUILDING STOCKS.

B) INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NATURAL OPIATES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES UNTIL NON-ADDICTIVE OR LESS ADDICTIVE SYNTHETICS
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DEVELOPED AND ACCEPTED. SUITABLE SYNTHETIC TO REPLACE CODEINE NOT AVAILABLE NOW AND PERHAPS NOT FOR AT LEAST A DECADE.

C) TO HELP MEET SHORT TERM MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS US PREPARED RELEASE PORTION OPIUM STOCKPILE TO RESTORE US INVENTORIES TO SAFE LEVELS.

D) INCREASING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS AS VERIFIED BY INCB FROM GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES MUST BE MET UNDER ADEQUATE CONTROLS TO PREVENT DIVERSION TO ILLICIT TRAFFIC.

E) IN LIGHT OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION US BELIEVES OPIATES MAY BE MORE EFFICIENTLY PRODUCED THROUGH STRAW PROCESS, WHICH MAY ALSO BE SAFEST WAY TO MEET INCREASING REQUIREMENTS. CONSEQUENTLY US PROPOSES INTENSIFIED RESEARCH BY COUNTRIES WITH INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND ALSO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON BOTH MECHANICAL AND LABOR-INTENSIVE PROCEDURES OF STRAW PROCESS AS WELL AS ON MEANS OF CONTROL. WE WOULD HOPE RESEARCH COULD BE PURSUED BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES, COORDINATED BY UN LABORATORY, WITH RESULTS SHARED INTERNATIONALLY. RESEARCH SHOULD RELATE BOTH TO SOMNIFERUM STRAW AND TO BRACTEATUM PLANT, AND LATTER SHOULD COVER ABUSE POTENTIAL AS WELL.

F) WE WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN STRAW RESEARCH PROGRAM AND WILL SHARE RESULTS OUR RESEARCH. US PLANS, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE TO MEET ITS DOMESTIC OPIATE REQUIREMENTS THROUGH IMPORTS.

G) SEARCH FOR NON-ADDICTIVE OR LESS ADDICTIVE SYNTHETICS SHOULD BE PURSUED. US WILL PRESS ON WITH ITS RESEARCH AND SHARE RESULTS. WE HOPE WHO AND UN LABORATORY WILL PROMOTE COOPERATION IN EXPEDITING AND EVALUATING THIS RESEARCH.

H) INCB SHOULD KEEP AVAILABILITY OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL USE UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW. THIS CND SHOULD INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS SUBJECT AND REQUEST UN LABORATORY TO COORDINATE RELATED RESEARCH.

2. WE HAVE FOUND GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF THAT US DOES NOT INTEND TO SEEK ADOPTION ANY RESOLUTION. THERE APPEARS BE LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT WITH OUR PROPOSED APPROACH AND WE KNOW OF NO ACTIVE OPPOSITION. ON BASIS CONSULTATIONS WITH VIRTUALLY ALL DELS WE BELIEVE THAT MANY WILL SPEAK IN FAVOR OF ONE OR MORE ELEMNTNS OF OUR POSITION. SPECIFICALLY THERE SEEMS BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FURTHER POPPY STRAW RESEARCH IS DESIRABLE AS POSSIBLE (SOME FEEL PROBABLY) ANSWER TO INCREASING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OPIATES. THERE IS ALSO CONSENSUS THAT BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED IN MANNER WHICH DOES NOT IMPERIL INTERNATIONAL

CONTROL SYSTEM OR ADD TO ILLICIT TRAFFIC.

3. FOR SHORT-TERM, IMPORTANT CONCUNING COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RESEARCH APPROACH WILL NOT MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR RAW MATERIALS. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT INCB PRESIDENT GREENFIELD, IN INTRODUCING BOARD'S REPORT, SHOULD REFER TO PROSPECTS FOR SHORT-TERM OF INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS FROM INDIA, BOTH FROM OPIUM PRODUCTION AND SECONDARY STRAW PROCESSING. WE FEEL SURE THAT INDIA WILL STATE ITS INTENTIONS ON PRODUCTION TO MEET SHORT TERM DEMAND. INDIANS HAVE REITERATED TO US THEY WILL NOT INCREASE ACREAGE BEYOND CAPACITY TO CONTROL, AND THIS THEY CLEARLY EXPECT TO BE TO LIMITED EXTENT. INDIANS' HAVE ASSURED US THEY WILL SUPPORT OUR PROPOSAL FOR INTENSIFIED STRAW RESEARCH UNDER UN COORDINATION.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THAILAND, PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN WE HAVE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRIES HAVING NO EXPERIENCE OR CAPACITY TO CONTROL MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO ENTER LEGAL EXPORT MARKET. INCB HAS TAKEN SAME LINE WITH THESE COUNTRIES AND WE ARE INFORMED THAT IN HIS REMARKS BEFORE CND GREENFIELD WILL EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING POLICY OF NO INCREASE IN LICIT OPIUM EXPORTERS AND WILL UNDERSCORE UNECONOMIC NATURE
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OF LEGAL OPIUM TRADE STEMMING FROM COSTS OF EFFECTIVE CONTROLS REQUIRED BY NARCOTICS TREATIES.

5. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH KEY DELS INCLUDING PRINCIPAL CONCUNING COUNTRIES SINCE IT IS YET UNCLEAR EXACTLY WHAT STATEMENTS DELEGATIONS PROPOSE MAKE IN DEBATE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26. ALL DELS ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF USG VIEWS AND RESEARCH PROPOSALS. DALE

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TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN, INCB
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